(d) and (e) Labour Laws as enforced by the State Governments concerned are applicable to SEZs.

Coir exports

185. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coir exports from India have touched an all time high during 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the share of Orissa in these exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and b) Yes Sir, the export touched an all time high both quantity-wise and value-wise. The export of coir and coir products during the year 2005-06 amounted to 1,36,027 tonnes valued at Rs. 508.45 crores. The export during the 2004-05 was of the order of 1,22,927 tonnes valued at Rs. 473.40 crores.

(c) The share of Orissa in the export of coir and coir products from India is practically nil.

Negative impact of FTAs

186. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian corporate majors are worried about the negative impact from FTAs between India, ASEAN and West Asian countries apprehending that the FTAs will work against local companies and that they will discourage investment and inflow of new technology into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Some of the Manufacturers' Associations have conveyed their concerns on the possible negative impact of the Free Agreements (FTAs) between India, ASEAN and Gulf Cooperation Council. While finalising the FTAs, due regard is given to the genuine concerns of the domestic industry.

Import of Agro Products

187. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agro products allowed for import during the last three years;

(b) the number of agro products permitted for export and the foreign exchange earned during the above period;

(c) whether the export earning from some agro products have been reduced during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken to push up export of agro products/coffee; and

(f) the number of export sectors working in the country at present, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A total of 24 agri and allied products were imported as well as exported during the last three years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05. and 2005-06 (upto December, 2006)*.

(c) and (d) Export earning from agro products has been increasing during the above mentioned three years and was to tune of 5223.85, 5766.48 and 4914 US$ million (upto December, 2006)*

(e) Encouraging export is a continuous process. The Government is taking steps to encourage export of agro products through measures and incentives under Plan schemes of the Commodity Boards etc. Systematic improvements to facilitate export is an ongoing process and whenever required, the Government reviews these procedures, with a view to simplify the same. In order to boost Indian coffee exports as well as to maximize export earnings, the Coffee Board initiated the following key initiatives under its Market Development Scheme in the X Plan like Carrying out

* Provisional (Source DGCI & S)